

Message Text

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42

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 MMO-01 /017 W

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O R 111603Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6606

INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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STATE FOR CU/ARTS, CU/EE; USIA FOR IEU PASS SADLIK AND PAO FERNANDEZ
CU/ARTS FOR GUY CORIDEN

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OEXC RO

SUBJECT: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS: LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

REF: STATE 032544, BUCHAREST 0603

1. YOU AND I HAVE BOTH HAD ENOUGH EXPERIENCE DEALING WITH ROMANIA AND ROMANIANS OVER THE YEARS SO THAT YOU WILL UNDERSTAND WHY I AM APPEALING TO YOU FOR HELP IN TRYING TO RESOLVE WHAT SEEMS TO ME AN UNNECESSARY STALEMATE BETWEEN DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY BUCHAREST OVER TERMS FOR THE LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC. I'M SORRY THE QUESTION DIDN'T COME UP WHEN WE SAW EACH OTHER IN WASHINGTON LAST DECEMBER. I SET FORTH BELOW THE CURRENT SITUATION AND MY VIEWS ON IT AND HOPE WE CAN GET AWAY FROM THE ULTIMATUM TYPE APPROACH WHICH THE DEPARTMENT'S LAST TELEGRAM REPRESENTED.

2. IN VIEW OF IMPORTANCE OF MAJOR EVENT LIKE LAPO AND HISTORY OF LONG NEGOTIATIONS HERE, I REGRET DEPARTMENT WAITED EIGHT DAYS TO REPLY TO OUR LAST CABLE (BUCHAREST 0603) AND THEN SET DEADLINE OF

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FEW HOURS IN WHICH TO WORK OUT DETAILS. I WOULD APPRECIATE

EXTENSION OF THAT DEADLINE AND REQUEST ACTION OFFICER IN CU/ARTS
TO PHONE ME DURING EMBASSY WORKING HOURS THURSDAY TO DISCUSS
LAPO PROBLEM.

3. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION OF STATE 032544 WITH CAO TODAY, ILEASA
OF COUNCIL MADE FINAL OFFER OF 63,000 LEI FOR LAPO TRANSPORT
COSTS, ABOUT FIFTY PERCENT OF TOTAL AND FAR BELOW 90-95 PERCENT
DEMANDED BY DEPARTMENT.

4. ILEASA PROMISED TO CABLE DEVELOPMENT TO GOR DEPFORNMN GLIGA,
WHO IS IN DEPARTMENT TODAY AND TOMORROW AS HEAD OF DELEGATION
AT MID-TERM REVIEW TALKS. IF HIS BUSY SCHEDULE PERMITS, SUGGEST
CU/ARTS CONTACT GLIGA THROUGH CU/EE TO ENLIST HIS ASSISTANCE IN
FINAL RESOLUTION OF MATTER.

5. I CONFESS TO CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY IN UNDERSTANDING DEPARTMENT'S LATEST POSITION. SINCE EARLIEST CABLES IN 1974,
POSSIBILITY HAS BEEN MENTIONED THAT EMBASSY MIGHT HAVE TO HELP
DEFRAY TRANSPORTATION COSTS. NOT ONCE HAS THERE BEEN ANY
DEPARTMENT OBJECTION. EMBASSY'S WILLINGNESS TO CONTRIBUTE IS MEASURE
OF

IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO LAPO APPEARANCE AS ONLY MAJOR CULTURAL
EVENT FOR BICENTENNIAL YEAR. ALSO WISH TO POINT OUT FACT THAT
SHARE OF TRANSPORT COSTS APPEARS TO USTO BE UNEVENLY DISTRIBUTED
AMONG EE COUNTRIES, WARSAW-BUCHAREST BEING LONGEST LEG ON TOUR.
WE DON'T OF COURSE KNOW WHAT OTHER COUNTRIES ARE PAYING SINCE
CHARTER RATES MAY DIFFER, BUT PRO-RATA SHARE OF TOTAL TRANSPORT
COSTS WOULD HAVE BEEN FAIRER ARRANGEMENT. SINCE RAIL TRANSPORT
FROM VIENNA TO BUDAPEST MUCH LESSEXPENSIVE THAN AIR CHARTER
FROM WARSAW TO BUCHAREST, FOR EXAMPLE, ROMANIANS IN EFFECT ARE
BEING ASKED TO HELP SUBSIDIZE LAPO APPEARANCE IN BUDAPEST.

ESSENCE OF

OUR ARGUMENT IS NOT THAT BUDAPEST SHOULD BE
ASKED TO PAY MORE, BUT THAT BUCHAREST SHOULD NOT BE REQUIRED
TO PAY MORE THAN OTHERS
FOR SAME ATTRACTION. FOR MANY YEARS
WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO ESTABLISH PRINCIPLE THAT GOR SHOULD SHARE
IN COST OF BRINGING SUCH OUTSTANDING (AND EXPENSIVE) GROUPS
HERE. NOW THAT WE HAVE WON POINT WE ARE DISCOURAGED TO LEARN
THAT AT LAST MOMENT DEPARTMENT WANTS TO CHANGE GROUND RULES
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WE ASSUMED WERE PREVIOUSLY ACCEPTABLE (I.E., USE OF GOE).
WILL WISH TO DISCUSS THIS POINT AND ELEMENT OF LACK OF
EQUITY IN EXPECTING ROMANIANS TO PAY GREATER SHARE OF BURDEN
DURING OUR CONVERSATION TOMORROW.
BARNES

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